National Council on AIDS

547. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a National Council on AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of HIV/AIDS have risen to 5.1 million at the end of last year from just one case in 1986; and

(d) whether it if also a fact that India today stood next only to South Africa which is estimated to have 5.4 million cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up a National Council on AIDS under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to mainstream HIV/AIDS issues in all Ministries and departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely public health problem.

(c) Yes, Sir. The number of HIV positive estimated in the country is 5.1 million in 2003. The first positive case was identified in 1986.

(d) In terms of total number of HIV estimated positive persons, India is next only to South Africa which had an estimated 5.4 million HIV positive cases. But in terms of HIV prevalence in general population India has adult prevalence of 0.9 per cent by 2003 and South Africa has 26.9 per cent

De-rscognition of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka

548. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka recommended by Medical Council of India for de-recognition;

(b) the reasons for such recommendations;

(c) the fate of students studying in these medical colleges; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Dental Council of India (DCI) has not made any recommendation to the Central Government for de-recognition of any Dental College in Karnataka. However, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has made a recommendation for derecognition of the MBBS degree awarded by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Deemed University) in respect of its constituent medical colleges *viz.,* Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore in Karnataka. As per the MCI, the said recommendation was made in view of the excess admission of students in MBBS course made by Manipal Academy of Higher Education against the NRI/foreign students quota beyond the limit of 15 per cent laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As per the provisions of the Act, the medical qualification being awarded by any University in respect of the students of a specified college or institution affiliated to that University can be de-recognised only after following the procedure laid down therein and shall take effect only from the date as may be specified by the Central Government in this regard by a Notification in the official Gazette. The degree, if any, awarded to the students admitted in such colleges in the medical courses concerned till the date of such de-recognition shall continue to remain recognised.

Dental Care

† 549. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maximum number of people are not able to get their dental diseases treated due to shortage of dentists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.